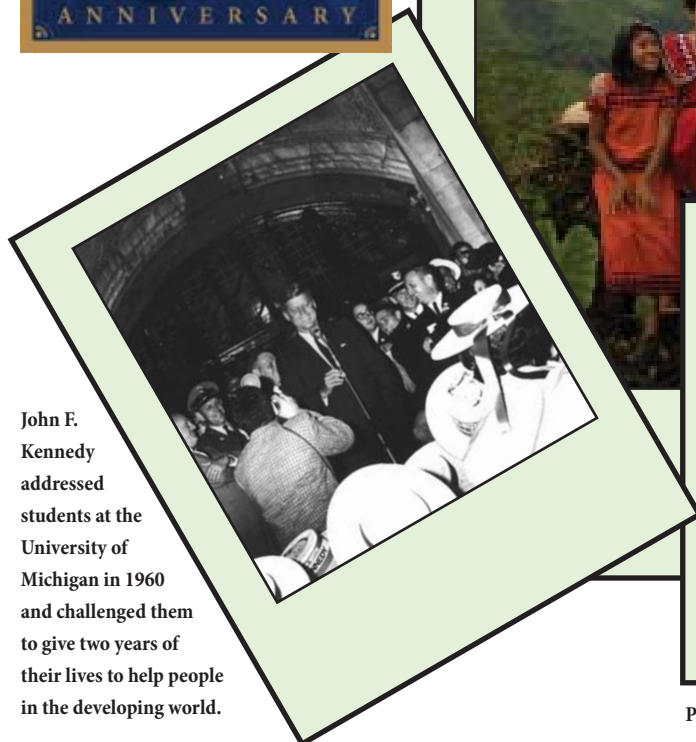


# UK and Peace Corps: 50 Years of Service



John F. Kennedy addressed students at the University of Michigan in 1960 and challenged them to give two years of their lives to help people in the developing world.



Photos courtesy of United States Peace Corps.

It's been called "the toughest job you'll ever love." In March, the [United States Peace Corps](#) celebrates its 50th anniversary. In that time, more than 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 host countries. Approximately 250 UK alumni have volunteered. In fact, UK's UK's connection to the Peace Corps spans the decades and includes faculty and staff, as well as students.

The Peace Corps traces its beginnings to 1960 when Sen. John F. Ken-

nedy challenged students at the [University of Michigan](#) to live and work in developing countries as service to their country. Generations of Americans later heard that message echoed in President Kennedy's [inaugural address](#) on January 20, 1961 with "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

*Continued on page 2*

## KET Features UK South African Initiative

Three University of Kentucky ambassadors for international affairs took to the small screen to promote the UK South Africa Initiative.

Mark Kornbluh, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Susan Carvalho, associate provost for international programs at UK and Steve Wrinn, director of The University Press of Kentucky were featured on the January 28 edition of [KET's Connections with Renee Shaw](#). The three spoke about the ongoing collaborative program with South Africa.

The focus of the discussion was the upcoming convocation for Ahmed Kathrada at the University of Kentucky. Kathrada, a politician and anti-apartheid activist, was imprisoned at Robbin Island alongside fellow activist Nelson

*Continued on page 3*

Global KY highlights UK's international activities. Do you have a story idea? Contact Michelle Gorin at [michelle.gorin@uky.edu](mailto:michelle.gorin@uky.edu).

## Celebrating 50 Years

The Kentucky Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are organizing a number of activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary.

*Voices from the Peace Corps: Fifty Years of Kentucky Volunteers* Released by the University Press of Kentucky and written by Angene Wilson and Jack Wilson, who served in Liberia from 1962 to 1964, this [book](#) follows the experiences of volunteers with Kentucky connections.

*Five Decades of Peace Corps Service* An [exhibit](#), coinciding with the book, will be on display in the gallery at the Lexington Public Library's Central Branch, February 18-March 20. Reception February 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

*Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Oral History Project* The Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History and the University of Kentucky Libraries are unveiling the [Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Oral History Project](#), interviews with returned Peace Corps volunteers and individuals associated with the Peace Corps from 1961 to the present.

*Continued from page 1*

Robert Olson, who taught Middle East and Islamic History at UK from 1973 to 2010, heard it and saw the Peace Corps as his way out of a small town.



Peace Corps Volunteer Ashley Givan in June 2008 with one of her first-year English classes at China West Normal University in Nachong, Sichuan province in China.

When he was 21, Olson took his first teaching job in Hibbing, Minnesota. Wanderlust led him to apply for the Peace Corps, and he knew where he wanted to be stationed. "I said Pakistan," he told Angene Wilson in a 2005 interview for the [Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Oral History Project](#). "Right through the globe [on] the other side was Lahore, Pakistan. And I wanted to get as far as I could away from Hibbing."

There were no assignments available in Pakistan, but in May 1965, Olson became part of the second group of Peace Corps volunteers ever to be stationed in Turkey, a team tasked primarily with teaching English as a second language. His training, which took place at Georgetown University, included language and culture. It also involved a rigorous physical component, including a 50-mile hike.

Although his instructors were exceptional, he struggled once he reached he arrived in Turkey. "I still remember very vividly walking into class. There were almost 60 students in the class, three to a desk the boys on one side and the girls

on the other side. And of course in Turkey when you come into a classroom all the students stand up. So I came in, the Turkish teacher was there and he introduced me, then he left. And the children just kept standing and I didn't know the word for 'sit down.'" After that, Olson spent his evenings expanding his Turkish vocabulary.

## Bringing the Best of America to the World

UK Office of International Affairs Community Liaison Kay Roberts was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador in the 1980s. Today, she serves as a contact for the Kentucky Returned Peace Corps Volunteers organization in the Lexington area. She has also been at the helm of the Kentucky-Ecuador Partners division of Partners of the Americas for more than 25 years.

Roberts, a native of Missouri, was well-traveled and had collected multiple application packets by the time she applied for the Peace Corps.

She completed her bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies and was finishing up a master's degree in Community Development with a focus on International Development when the right opportunity arose. "The program included a practicum," explained Roberts. "They wanted to send me to Jefferson City, Mo. to do urban planning, but I didn't see how that related to international development, so I convinced my committee to allow me to use the first year of my Peace Corps experience to fulfill the requirement."

Today, there are numerous opportunities for Peace Corps volunteers to receive credit for their experience, but at

that time it was a new idea.

Although her primary assignment was to work with 4-H groups on agricultural topics, the weather in Ecuador did not cooperate. “It was the year of El Niño,” she explained. “They got more rain in that season than in any previous season since they had been recording rainfall. Everything they put in the ground either rotted or washed away.”

Roberts served as a liaison to what was the equivalent of a U.S. agricultural extension office, helping the population test soil samples and manage their crops. But she and her co-volunteer also turned their focus to other topics, teaching classes on English, nutrition and first aid.

The most rewarding days she recalls were vaccination days, when they would travel miles to other communities, on foot, by jeep, or on horseback, with a local nurse. “On those days, you knew, absolutely, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that your work had made a difference.”

Ashley Givan, a first-year student at the UK Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, served as a Peace Corps volunteer in China from 2007-2009. She taught English as a second language in Nanchong, Sichuan province. When the regular school year ended, the volunteers led a summer seminar for ESL teachers. China’s need for ESL teachers is so great that individuals are often reassigned from their fields of expertise and required to teach English without any prior training.

Givan discovered that even brief discussions on vocabulary and pedagogy were invaluable. She and her co-teacher had a particularly quiet student in sessions, who might have easily gone unnoticed if not for his evaluation at the end of the project. “In his exit interview, he essentially said, ‘I studied on my own for 10 years to be able to teach English, and before meeting you I had never spoken with a foreigner.’ That’s when I knew it was worth it,” she said.

## Learn More

Peace Corps may be the opportunity for you. Attend an information session Wednesday, March 30 or Thursday, March 31 at 5 p.m. in room 202 of the James W. Stuckert Career Center. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Bringing the World Back Home

Givan believes Peace Corps’ true legacy is in promoting understanding. “We all have different ideas of what it means to help,” she explained, “but it’s really about forging relationships on a personal level.”

That holds true for the volunteers, as well as the people they serve. When a twist of fate brought Roberts to Kentucky, she sought out the Peace Corps office. “I happened to meet the woman who was coordinating the Kentucky-Ecuador Partners programs, and when she left to go back to school, that position was a natural fit for me. Now I get to talk about Ecuador and the Peace Corps every day,” she said.

A major goal of Peace Corps involves bringing the world back home, and returned volunteers do that in a myriad of ways. Robert Olson became fascinated by Turkish history and the Middle East. He has returned to Turkey 20 times since his Peace Corps service and is considered a leading international authority on foreign relations.

Serving in China opened Givan’s eyes to gender issues on an international scale, and she is now passionate about promoting the advancement of developing countries through equality, health services and education.

The impact of half a century of Peace Corps service is bipartisan and immeasurable. During his presidency, George W. Bush praised the organization, saying, “It really is the best foreign policy America could possibly have.”

## Connect

Are you a returned Peace Corps volunteer with a UK connection? Contact Kay Roberts with the Kentucky Returned Peace Corps Volunteers at 859.257.4067, ext. 248 or [roberts@uky.edu](mailto:roberts@uky.edu).

Returned volunteers take pride in their service and also recognize what Peace Corps has brought to their lives. “I think most of us realize that the greatest impact was on ourselves,” said Olson. “It was immense for me. It made me realize who I was.”



# UK Hits the High Notes for Mexican Opera Students



UK doctoral student Manuel Castillo loves the opera. A vocal performance major from Guadalajara, Mexico, he practices often – even if he is just thinking about producing different sounds as he walks to and from class. While an opera-singing international student from Guadalajara would seem to be a novelty, surprisingly Castillo is not the only one on UK's campus. Vocal performance sophomore Francisco Bedoy can also be seen in UK opera productions.

Castillo met Bedoy at a concert in which Bedoy was performing in their hometown of Guadalajara. He told him about the opportunities for vocal training at UK, as well as the chance to earn a tuition waiver through the annual Alltech Vocal Scholarship Competition. Castillo, who also earned his Master's

degree at UK and undergraduate degree at Morehead State University, was excited to share with a fellow student the opportunities available at UK.

"The education system in the United States is very well organized," said Castillo, who came to the United States from Mexico in 2004. "The career of music in Mexico is not very settled down," he said. "There is a lot of talent that gets lost because they don't know where to go or how to explore that talent. It is kind of sad."

Luckily for Bedoy, his talent did not go to waste after he auditioned at the 2008 Alltech Vocal Scholarship Competition. There, he won the Outstanding Transfer Student Award and thus, full tuition to UK. It was a daunting decision to move to the United

States and try to become proficient in a second language, but he took the leap.

"To leave home, university and work, to travel to live in a place in where you only have been for three days, with people that you met two summers ago, believe me, it is a challenge," he said.

Bedoy and Castillo both sang in La Boheme opera performances this Fall at the Lexington Opera House. Castillo played the lead role of Rodolfo, and Bedoy sang in the choir.

Bedoy sang in eight different productions in the State Opera of Jalisco in Guadalajara before coming to UK. Both men attended music schools in Mexico, which helped prepare them for their professional pursuits at UK. While he learned a lot in Mexico, the one-on-one attention of the knowledgeable voice teachers here is invaluable, Bedoy said.

"When I was in Mexico I did not have a voice teacher and I used to study alone or sometimes to I used practice with some friends," he said. "But the boundary between someone that is studying and a professional voice teacher is really striking."

There is a lot of work involved with being a vocal performance major that requires lifestyle changes. Castillo avoids cats and dust and focuses on getting plenty of rest, liquids, hot tea, and steam baths to preserve his voice, especially when he is performing.

"It's like a race car versus a regular car," he said. "Both give the same service but one is so specialized. You have to take care of it."

But the maintenance involved is worth it, because of the feeling you get when

you have the opportunity to share emotions and a story in music, the students said.

"It's sharing without barriers," Castillo said. "When someone comes up to me and says 'You touched me,' that's already the best feedback you can have. People are moved by what you do."

Bedoy spoke similarly about his love of vocal performance.

"I love to perform and I love to sing because it is a way to express all the happiness and sadness," he said. "When I sing, I felt that I become submerged in an atmosphere, in a new world, because with each song I can talk a history."



Vocal performance sophomore Franciso Bedoy



UK doctoral student Manuel Castillo

## KET Features

*Continued from page 1*  
Mandela.

Once released, Kathrada was voted into Parliament and served as a political advisor to President Nelson. He has received various awards, including honorary doctorates from the University of Missouri and Michigan State University.

He wrote about his life in *No Bread for Mandela: Memoirs of Ahmed Kathrada*, published for the first time in North America by the University Press of Kentucky last year. Wrinn spoke of the excitement of publishing the book, noting its showcasing of "the utter humanity of a man who spent 26 years in prison, but who, upon his release, was committed to reconciliation, not revenge."

Kathrada will be accompanied by Barbara Hogan, an anti-apartheid activist and the former Minister of Public Enterprises in the Cabinet of South Africa. The convocation takes place April 13 and is open to the public.

# Wildcat Chase Hieneman Interns with Parliament

University of Kentucky junior Chase Hieneman is like many upperclassmen in that, a few days each week, he sat behind an office desk at his internship. However, unlike other students, Hieneman's desk was in the Palace of Westminster in London, England.

Hieneman, a Greenup, Ky., native, interned with Parliament, specifically working for the Scottish Nationalist Party Westminster Group (SNP) in the House of Commons.

"It is actually quite coincidental that I would be placed with the SNP," explained Hieneman, "because as a middle school student, I discovered William Wallace and Scottish history and was firmly supportive of an independent Scotland, something that my employing party is currently striving for."

Hieneman spent his days researching issues and writing briefs for the six SNP Members of Parliament. Several of his briefs have formed the basis of constituent responses, and he has also written Parliamentary Questions, which are inquiries delivered to the Ministers of State. A former UK Visitor Center campus tour guide, he occasionally gave tours of the Palace of



UK junior Chase Hieneman is pictured on the job in London.

Westminster.

"I am doing the most substantive work I've ever done in an internship," said Hieneman while abroad. "As soon as I arrived, they threw me right into the fire."

Hieneman is accustomed to the political realm. Prior to interning with Parliament, he worked in Kentucky State Senate President David Wil-

liams' office and in the office of U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell.

"I hope to end this internship in the same way I've ended the others, with strengthened abilities, a larger professional network, and a better idea of exactly what I want to do with my life," said Hieneman, who is majoring in political science and finance.

Hieneman is keeping his options open and remains interested in several different career paths after he graduates, including management consulting or working on a presidential campaign.

Hieneman, who returned to the United States in December, is grateful to have completed an internship abroad.

"It is a very enjoyable experience, and I hope that other students will consider applying," he said.



## UK Cultural Diversity Festival

March 2011

UK's Cultural Diversity Festival highlights the wealth of diversity at UK and strives to engage all students, faculty and staff, as well as the Lexington community, in activities, dialogue and understanding.

Colleges, departments and organizations are encouraged to submit new or existing events to the master festival schedule at <http://bit.ly/CDFevent>. The first deadline for event information is Feb. 21. More at [www.uky.edu/DiversityFestival](http://www.uky.edu/DiversityFestival).



# Startalk Funding for Public Schools Renewed

Chinese language education in the Bluegrass received another welcome boost with the news that the [Startalk Program](#) at UK, a partnership between UK and Fayette County Public Schools, will receive a second year of funding from the National Security Language Initiative. The Startalk Program at UK is designed to enroll native (or native-level) Chinese language speakers in an alternative-route teacher preparation program, so that they can be certified to teach Chinese in state K-12 schools after one intensive summer of training. With growth in Asian language programs, especially Chinese, across the state, the need for certified teachers is continuously expanding. In addition, the partner program housed in Fayette County Public Schools brings these teachers together with master teachers, to provide a Chinese language summer camp for K-12 students.

At the University of Kentucky, the 2010 Startalk program proved highly successful, producing seven new teachers who were placed in Fayette County public schools. Two additional 2010 participants are

now pursuing graduate-level certification and education degrees. The Startalk Program created the first fast-track certification for Chinese language speakers as teachers in Central Kentucky, and the first partnership between UK and Fayette County Public Schools to provide a summer Chinese Language camp for students while facilitating fast-track teacher certification. In addition, since summer 2010, UK has worked with Fayette County Public Schools to provide ongoing professional development seminars to the new Chinese language teachers.

The Startalk Program provides the foundation to jumpstart UK's plans to offer a Chinese major and a variety of options for World Language certification, including adding Chinese to the Master of Arts in the Teaching World Languages (MATWL) program at UK. This Startalk Program was successful thanks to the collaborative efforts of Fayette County Public Schools, the UK College of Arts & Sciences, the UK College of Education's P-20 Lab, and the UK Asia Center.

*Continued on page 10*



Students from the Startalk camps perform songs and dances they learn through the program.

# UK Breaks Top 20 for Fulbrights



Top to Bottom: University of Kentucky Faculty Fulbrights Susan Carvalho, Eugene Gaetke, Jason Hans and Raymond Hill

The University of Kentucky was recognized by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in October as a top producer of U.S. Fulbright Scholars for the 2010-11 academic year, with four recipients.

UK is in the top 20 of public institutions for its number of Fulbright Scholars, according to the [Chronicle's listing](#).

The prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program is the flagship international exchange program of the U.S. Department of State. It provides grants that allow American faculty members, scholars and professionals to lecture or conduct research for up to a year.

Susan E. Carvalho, associate provost for international programs, was involved in the U.S. - Japan International Education Administrators Program. Her work involved a month-long immersion into Japanese higher education in June 2010, as part of a delegation of five international administrators. Together they learned how Japanese higher education is responding to local and global labor markets, and how U.S. universities can best envision collaborations with their Japanese counterparts.

Eugene R. Gaetke, Edward T. Breathitt Professor of Law in UK's College of Law, will be teaching a course on legal ethics, with a major focus on the duties and regulation of the Ameri-

can legal profession, as well as a class on English legal terminology, using an introduction to the American legal system as a framework, at the University of Maribor, Slovenia, from February to May 2011. "Both courses reflect the growing interest of the Slovenian legal profession in becoming familiar with the American legal system and legal profession, a by-product in part of the globalization of the economy," said Gaetke.

Jason David Hans, associate professor in the Department of Family Studies, School of Human Environmental Sciences, will lecture on Family Science and Human Sexuality at Odessa National University in Odessa, Ukraine from September 2010 to June 2011.

Raymond Earl Hill, assistant professor in the UK College of Public Health and director of the Kentucky Institute of Public Health Practice Enhancement, will spend September 2010 through June 2011 at the Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University in Lviv, Ukraine lecturing on public health.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Under a cooperative agreement with the bureau, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars assists in the administration of the Fulbright Program.



# Education Abroad Can Be Affordable, Essential

While education abroad may have once been referred to as “Junior Year Abroad” and was associated with a few privileged students majoring in the humanities, international study has expanded from this narrow definition to be viewed as an essential experience in undergraduate education.

Skills and knowledge gained from international education experiences are essential for success in today’s global workplace. Thus, high-quality programs exist for students in all disciplines, from engineering to chemistry and business to agriculture. Education abroad programs are more accessible for today’s students, more affordable and even more important to student success than in the past.

The University of Kentucky has taken major steps toward making education abroad a real and viable opportunity for all students.

For example, credits earned abroad count toward graduation, and in many cases, students can take some of their required courses abroad. The University allows students to use their financial aid and scholarships for study abroad. Moreover, Education Abroad at UK offers individual scholarships of \$750 to \$1,500 based on financial need and academic merit.

(More than \$150,000 in scholarship money is available for summer and fall programs to students who apply before March 2011.)

UK can also help students identify other scholarship opportunities. UK students are eligible to apply for prestigious awards such as the Heidelberg Scholarship to study in Germany and the Caen Scholarship to study in France. Others may apply for college-specific grants, like those provided by the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Health Sciences. Education Abroad at UK also links students to a wide range of external scholarships, and UK students are frequent recipients of such awards.

UK has even developed an innovative fee structure that offers students a tuition break, which further offsets the cost of studying abroad. While an education abroad program in the summer may cost more than staying in Lexington, students often earn 6-9 credits during the summer, which count toward graduation. When measured against the tuition and expenses of an extra semester of classes, the education abroad program can suddenly become more cost-effective.

Today’s students must make the

right choices to position themselves competitively in the current job market. Research suggests that students who study abroad are more likely to graduate, and they are more likely to graduate on time. Employers report giving greater consideration to applicants who have studied abroad. All indicators point to education abroad as a pathway to students’ academic and social success and a means to achieving the University’s goal to graduate world-ready and engaged citizens. [Contact Education Abroad at UK to schedule a presentation.](#)

## Program Types

**UK Sponsored:** UK offers a growing number of group programs facilitated by UK faculty and staff.

**UK Exchange:** UK has partnered with universities in other countries to exchange students, often for costs similar to what our students spend in Lexington.

**UK Consortia:** UK is a member of various consortia to provide faculty-led education abroad programs.

**UK Direct:** UK supports students who opt to enroll directly in foreign institutions.

*Global KY* is a quarterly publication highlighting international initiatives at the University of Kentucky.

Associate Provost for International Programs:  
Susan Carvalho

Editor:  
Michelle Gorin

Editorial Assistant:  
Danielle Palmer

Design Assistant:  
Wesley Yonts

Contributing Writers:

Jesse Brasher  
Joanna Clark  
Michelle Gorin  
Mike Hardy

Erin Holaday  
Carl Nathe  
Anthony Ogden  
Danielle Palmer

# Formisano Teaches at Bologna



Ron Formisano

History department professor Ron Formisano will extend UK's

global reach to one of the world's most prestigious and timeless universities this spring.

On the heels of his most recent book, *For the People: American Populist Movements from the Revolution to the 1850s*, Formisano has been invited to teach a 6-week course at the University of Bologna in Italy, where he held the Fulbright Chair of Political Science in 1994. The course, which begins later this month, will cover contemporary U.S. populism while providing a historical background ranging from the early Revolutionary-era populist movements to the rhetoric of the 2008 presidential election.

While he credits his experience in the Fulbright Program for opening the door to this opportu-

nity, Formisano, who is a consulting editor for the Italian academic journal *Ricerche di Storia Politica*, stresses the importance of global networking and scholarly output.

"There are few American Studies scholars in Italy, and I have maintained relationships with that cohort. When my last book was published, I was invited to do several lectures and the course at University of Bologna came about from those initial conversations," explained Formisano.

"I am looking forward to working with not only Italian students, but students from all over Europe," he said.

The University of Bologna is the oldest continually operating university in the world, consistently ranked among the best in Europe. It has a large international student population, partially due to its involvement with the Erasmus Mundus exchange program.



## Democracy in the Middle East:

### Focus on Egypt and Tunisia

Wednesday, February 16 at 4 p.m.  
UK Student Center Theater

#### Facilitated by Teresa Isaac

with

**Patricia Ahmed**

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

**Stacy Closson**

Distinguished Visiting Lecturer, Patterson School

**Ahmed Ibrahim**

Doctoral Student

**Amina Dhahri**

Undergraduate Student

**The Office of International Affairs, the International Studies Program and the Patterson School will host a panel discussion with a question-and-answer session to put the current events in the Middle East into a historical context.**

#### StarTalk funding

*Continued from page 7*

For 2011, the 'Year of the Rabbit', the UK Startalk Program has been redesigned to reach further. The plan is to recruit Chinese speakers statewide to support the expansion of sustainable Chinese language programs across Kentucky. At the same time, UK will continue working with the Kentucky Department of Education, the Educational Professional Standards Board and the Council on Post-Secondary Education.